

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01045 140943Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /098 W

----- 094995

R 040800Z OCT 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2435

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1045

BEIRUT AND TEHRAN FOR AGATTACHES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF SYRIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 3674 (NOTAL)

1. USINT AGREES WITH REFTEL'S ASSESSMENT THAT A LULL OF SORTS HAS OCCURRED IN IRAQI-SYRIAN PROPAGANDA WAR. THE VOLUME OF IRAQI ABUSE IS LESS. THE TONE IS A BIT PERFUNCTORY AND HALF-HEARTED BY COMPARISON WITH TWO MONTHS AGO.

2. ONE REASON MAY BE THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE PLENTY OF WATER IN LOWER EUPHRATES--NOT THAT THIS HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ADMITTED BY BAGHDAD--BUT NUMBER OF PROMINENT IRAQIS WITH LANDHOLDINGS IN THE RICE GROWING AREAS OF EUPHRATES HAVE TOLD USINT OFFS THAT WATER, FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE SEASONS, IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01045 140943Z

AND A BUMPER RICE CROP IS LIKELY TO BE HARVESTED.

3. PERHAPS BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP IS ALSO TO SOME EXTENT
PLEASED BY DAMASCUS'S EMPHATICALLY STATED DISPLEASURE WITH
SINAI SETTLEMENT. KILLOUGH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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